

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 737

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to recognize Clint Edward Parnell on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding citizens who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Clint Edward Parnell, athletic director of Goodpasture Christian School, is one such estimable educator who evinces the greatest probity and excellence in all his endeavors; and

WHEREAS, after forty-nine years as a teacher, coach, and administrator, Clint Parnell is taking a much deserved retirement, having been a positive influence on so many lives; and

WHEREAS, one of seven children, Mr. Parnell was born in rural Perry County to farmers Ralph and Maudie Qualls Parnell; and

WHEREAS, an alumnus of the Linden High School Class of 1959, he played basketball under the great Willie Hudson; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from high school, he continued his basketball career at Freed-Hardeman University, becoming the first person in his family to attend college; and

WHEREAS, after two years there, Mr. Parnell transferred to Lipscomb University, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree, and he later completed his master's degree plus forty-five credit hours at Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Clint Parnell began his extensive teaching career with Metro Schools at Maplewood High School, where he served as a history teacher and coach for football, basketball, and track; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Parnell then served as a teacher and coach at Ewing Park Middle School, during which time he refereed junior high basketball games, volunteered as a little

league umpire at Moss Wright Park, and began a thirty-year commitment to umpiring Dixie Youth Baseball; and

WHEREAS, after twenty-one years in the classroom, Clint Parnell accepted positions as assistant principal at Whites Creek High School and Dupont Tyler Middle School; and

WHEREAS, upon retiring from Metro Schools in 1993, Mr. Parnell made a new home for himself at Goodpasture Christian School, where he served as principal for twelve years and athletic director for nineteen years; and

WHEREAS, with his commitment to excellence and his inspiring leadership, he has amassed a career total of twenty-eight state championship titles as coach and athletic director; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated educator, he has been recognized many times for his service to Tennessee schools, including being named the 1984 Teacher of the Year, 1999 Outstanding Alumni in Education by Freed-Hardeman University, 2009 TSSAA Athletic Director of the Year, and recently the 2011-2012 Educator of the Year by the National Christian Schools Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Parnell volunteers much of his time and energy to the school's athletic program, graciously visits the infirm in hospitals and nursing homes, and has served on the President's Board of Freed-Hardeman University; and

WHEREAS, an active and devout Christian since 1955, he is a member of Rivergate Church of Christ, where he has served as a deacon and elder for over twenty years; and

WHEREAS, upon his final retirement from Goodpasture Christian School, he looks forward to spending more time with his loving and supportive wife, Judy; their two children, Rhonda and Jeff; and their four grandchildren, James, Meredith, Sarah, and Maggie; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Parnell exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to his students and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Clint Parnell has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues, staff, students, and the community at large; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we extend to Clint Edward Parnell our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.